

Selection Procedures

Prior to the formal paneling process, each application will receive an initial screening to ensure that all required forms, signatures and documentation are present. Each application will receive an independent, objective review by a panel qualified to evaluate the applications submitted. The independent review panel, consisting of at least three federal and/or non-federal individuals, reviews all applications based on the above criteria. Each member of the independent review panel will individually evaluate and rank the proposals and submit their rankings and recommendation to the National Director. The National Director of MBDA makes the final recommendation to the Department of Commerce Grants Officer regarding the funding of applications, taking into account the following selection criteria:

The evaluations and rankings of the independent review panel;

The degree to which applications address MBDA priorities as established under the project funding priorities;

Site Visits. The National Director or his/her designee reserves the right to conduct a site visit to applicant organizations receiving an average of at least 70% of the total points available for all four evaluation criteria. Site visits will be used to confirm the applicant's ability to best fulfill MBDA's funding priorities, particularly identifying and working to meet the needs of minority businesses seeking to obtain large scale contracts with institutional customers.

The availability of funding.

Unsuccessful Competition

On occasion, competitive solicitations or competitive panels may produce less than optimum results, such as competition resulting in the receipt of no applications or competition resulting in all unresponsive applications received. If the competition results in the receipt of only one application, it may or may not require additional action from MBDA depending upon the competitive history of the area, the quality of the application received, and the time and cost limits involved. In the event that any or all of these conditions arise, MBDA shall take the most time and cost-effective approach available that is in the best interest of the Government. The approaches available are: (1) Re-competition or (2) Re-Paneling or (3) Negotiation.

Disposition of Unsuccessful Applications

Upon the execution of an award by the Department of Commerce, MBDA

will notify the unsuccessful applicants, in writing, indicating the winner of the award and indicating a 30-day timeframe in which to request return of the unsuccessful application. Once this 30-day notice has lapsed, MBDA will destroy all unsuccessful applications.

Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** Notice of October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), are applicable to this solicitation.

Executive Order 12866

This notice was determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

Because notice and comment are not required under 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2), or any other law, for notices relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts, a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, is not required and has not been prepared for this notice.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, and CD-346 have been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, and 0348-0046, and 0605-0001.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Dated: October 24, 2002.

Edith Jett McCloud,

Associate Director for Management, Minority Business Development Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Advanced Technology Program Advisory Committee

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Postponement of partially closed meeting.

SUMMARY: The previously scheduled Advanced Technology Program (ATP) Advisory Committee meeting is postponed.

DATES: The meeting previously scheduled for October 29, 2002, from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. is postponed. The open portion of the meeting was to occur from 9:50 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carolyn J. Peters, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-1004, telephone number (301) 975-5607 or by e-mail at carolyn.peters@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 15, 2002, NIST announced in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 63622) a partially closed meeting of the ATP Advisory Committee. The meeting was scheduled for October 29, 2002, from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at NIST, Lecture Room B, Administration Building, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

The meeting is being postponed due to budget restraints during the Continuing Resolution and will be rescheduled at a later date.

The purpose of the meeting was to review and make recommendations regarding general policy for the ATP, its organization, its budget, and its programs within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. The agenda included an ATP update, a panel discussion from the international community on technology programs, an update on the ATP competition and a presentation on emerging knowledge about ATP's impact on firm behavior, collaboration, etc.

Dated: October 23, 2002.

Karen H. Brown,
Deputy Director.

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